



# Hallandale Beach Green Initiatives Newsletter



Community members enjoying the informational booths at the City's 2016 Green Fest Event

## Go Green in 2017: Your Decisions Matter

Choose to make 2017 the year that you begin your journey in discovering ways to reduce the amount of waste that you create! Can you guess how many pounds of plastic ends up in the world's oceans every year? If you guessed about 18,000,000,000 pounds, you are correct.

Many plastics that enter the ocean make their way to massive areas of spinning debris far away from any coastline. You may have heard of these areas—the most famous is the **Great Pacific Garbage Patch**. What most people may not realize is that once a piece of plastic enters the ocean it breaks down into tiny

pieces that may even be invisible to the naked eye. (Think about how a rock breaks down over time to form sand, this same thing happens to plastic in the ocean). These small pieces of plastic are called **micro-plastics** and they cause big problems in the ocean.

Marine animals eat this plastic soup of tiny particles, which can be a million times more polluted than the surrounding water. These toxins can then travel up the food chain until they impact us.

You can help reduce the impact of

plastics on our oceans and health by reducing the amount of plastic containing products that you purchase and use. For

example, instead of storing your produce in those flimsy vegetable bags that you get at the store, use your own reusable mesh bags. Use the

power of your purchases to send a message to manufacturers! Buy products that are able to be reused or recycled at the end of their useful life.

**Be Present,  
Think Future**

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### Community Garden

The City has a new Community Garden located at 23 Southwest 9th Street

### Fire Department Recycling

The Hallandale Beach Fire Department volunteered to undergo a recycling audit at the end of 2016



### Be Florida Friendly

Learn how to landscape your yard so that it suits the South Florida climate

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Or better yet, reduce the amount of products that you purchase. Our society places a heavy emphasis on buying more and more stuff. Take a step back for a moment before purchasing something and think, “Do I *really* need this product?” Oftentimes the answer is no. In fact The Story of Stuff Project reports that **99% of the materials** we harvest, mine, process and transport are **trashed within 6**

**months** of purchase. You have the power to control the amount of stuff that you purchase and the power to choose to make that stuff last as long as it possibly can before you (hopefully) reuse or recycle it. Make 2017 the year that you really take some time to think deeply about the amount of waste that you create and form a plan that fits your lifestyle to help reduce your impact!



## Community Garden

The City has partnered with Health in the Hood in order to engage residents with the operation of a City Community Garden, located on 23 Southwest 9th Street! A “Ground Opening” took place on December 3, 2016 and featured over 40 volunteers who helped move hundreds of pounds of soil into vegetable beds and also planted seeds/seedlings. Crops planted include: green beans, radishes, swiss chard, collard greens, peppers, rosemary, oregano, basil, carrots and tomatoes. There are multiple family garden plots available to residents on a first come, first serve basis. **Contact Asha Loring** for more information about how you can get involved in the garden.

Phone: 917-363-1275

Email: [aloring@healthinthehood.org](mailto:aloring@healthinthehood.org)



The Fire Department is different than any other Department in the City. Fire Stations are staffed 24/7, and crew members often eat multiple meals during their shifts. Most people do not relate long shifts with material use and waste production, but this is a reality. Every day materials, including food, oftentimes come packaged in recyclable containers (ex: spaghetti sauce or salad containers) and the City can see a positive environmental and economic impact if these materials are properly recycled.

The City must pay to have its garbage waste accepted at a landfill, but receives a rebate for recycled material that is dropped off at a materials recovery

facility. Increased recycling rates help save the City money!

The Fire Chief volunteered to have the Fire Department participate in a **recycling audit** during late 2016 in order to better understand the types of materials that are being placed in recycling bins. Training sessions then occurred in order to discuss proper recycling methods. Personal and

mid-size recycling bins, coupled with a new Fire Department Recycling Policy, were placed in

various locations in the Fire Stations to aid Departmental participation in the City's recycling program. Staff members were enthusiastic and engaged and walked away with a new outlook on waste reduction and recycling in the City!

**View the City Recycling Guide** at [cohb.org/recycling](http://cohb.org/recycling)

## 2015 Youth Beach Clean Up Outreach Project



## Learn and Share!

24% of all bottled water sold in the U.S. is bottled **tap water**—so save yourself some money, cut back on your plastic use and fill up that reusable bottle at home!

Many of our every day actions effect the planet by producing carbon emissions. Check out websites like [Carbon Fund](#) in order to calculate your individual carbon footprint and learn more about how to directly reduce your impact.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that it takes about 460 gallons of water to produce a 1/4 pound of beef. About 1,800 gallons of water are required in order to produce 1 pound of beef. This water is needed to irrigate grains and grasses fed to livestock, and includes water that livestock drink as well as water needed to process the meat.



Native Plant Giveaway during the August 20, 2016 Rain Barrel and Native Plant Workshop

## Be Florida Friendly

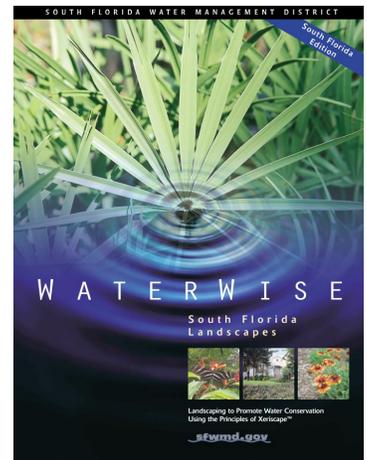
The types of plants that you choose for your landscaping have a big impact on water consumption

Florida is surrounded by water and can get drenched with rain during the rainy season—however the state still suffers from periodic droughts. Currently, most of the state is designated “abnormally dry” by the U.S. Drought Monitor. One of the best ways to conserve water at home is to be conscious of the types of plants that you include in your landscaping.

**Native Plants** are those that occur naturally and are adapted to the set of specific conditions in an area.

The South Florida Water Management District published a **WaterWise: South Florida Landscapes guide** (click [here](#) for link) in order to answer questions like, “What is a ‘safe’ plant for South Florida’s Environment” and “What is a nice plant for a shady spot?” Turf grass is usually a yard’s largest water consumer, so use this guide to get creative and redesign

your landscape to suit Florida’s unique climate! Remember that Broward County implements water restrictions that prohibit outdoor watering on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Watering is allowed before 10am or after 4pm on the remaining days of the week—based upon your street address. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Take Our Survey!

Follow [this link](#) to fill out a short survey and share your thoughts about this newsletter! Your responses are appreciated and will help us to make newsletters more useful and interesting for you in the future.